

Monthly Inbound Update

January, February, March & April 2022

International Passenger Survey by the ONS

(published 24th June 2022)

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1. About this data

About this data

This report is based on the latest International Passenger Survey (IPS) data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the morning of **24th June 2022**. This data covers January, February, March and April 2022 but this data may be revised for the quarterly release Jan-Mar 2022 in July 2022 and the annual release in 2023.

[Read the 'Inbound research & insights' section of the VisitBritain website](#) for much more detail on long term trends, data for individual markets and UK regions. Short term figures give an indication of the very latest trends, but should be used with caution. IPS is not designed to report accurately by month, and figures should be treated as indicative. Analysis of the last three months or longer is more reliable. All figures are provisional and subject to revision by the ONS.

The IPS data is based on interviews with a sample of departing visitors and the number interviewed varies but is typically around 3,000 per month.

Please also note:

- All data is sourced from the International Passenger Survey by the Office for National Statistics.
- All figures quoted are not “seasonally adjusted”.
- Numbers in some tables / charts may not sum due to rounding.
- All percentage changes in spend are nominal.

Refer to the [ONS website](#) for more on IPS methodology and UK outbound travel.

Important notice – continued impact of COVID-19 on IPS

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) was suspended on 16 March 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Interviewing initially began at UK airports at the start of 2021, though the IPS remained suspended at some ports during 2022. To produce statistics for the periods impacted the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have applied the following processes to the data since March 2020:

- **March 2020** - With the data collected for most of March when the IPS was running the ONS had part of the data needed for the month. To produce estimates for the full month of March the ONS worked on the assumption that passenger characteristics in the second, unsampled, half of the month were represented by those sampled in the first half.
- **April – December 2020 (Q2, Q3, Q4 2020)** - The travel and tourism figures for this period are based entirely on administrative sources and modelling as no data was collected during this period. In producing these results the ONS have made assumptions that some previous trends have continued, for example, the proportions of passengers travelling for business or holidays. The data was not made available by Mode, therefore we are unable to compare current AIR data to this period in 2020 and have opted to compare AIR data to 2019 instead.
- **2021** – data published for 2021 should be interpreted with the caveats that no data was collected for those travelling to the UK by Eurotunnel and data for those travelling via Dover was only collected from Q3. Please see [our 2021 inbound data page](#) for more information.
- **January, February, March & April 2022** – the ONS were unable to restart interviewing at Eurotunnel due to COVID-19 restrictions so data for this period excludes travel via this port.

Please [refer to the ONS website for the official release and more information on IPS methodology and UK outbound travel.](#)

Definitions

Regions:

- **Total Europe** includes **EU15** (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden); **Other EU** (Bulgaria, Cyprus (South), Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (note that Croatia has been included in the 'Other EU' category since it joined in July 2013; before July 2013 this group was labelled as A12) and **Rest of Europe** (European countries outside the EU (including Russia, Norway and Switzerland). Before July 2013 Croatia was also included here, but from July 2013 appears in Other EU)
- **North America** - Canada (including Greenland and St Pierre et Miquelon), USA (including Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands)
- **Rest of World** – Countries outside Europe and North America (Africa, Asia, Central America, Middle East, Oceania, South America)

Journey purpose:

- **VFR** - Visiting Friends and Relatives
- **Miscellaneous visits** - includes those for short term study, to attend sports events, for personal shopping, health or religious purposes, accompanying others and many more

Other:

- **Visit** - all departing visits from overseas residents (including those who may be UK nationals but live elsewhere, excluding other nationals who have been in the UK for 12 months or longer)
- **Spend** - the amount visitors report spending in the UK during their stay
- **YoY** - Year on Year

2. Latest monthly inbound UK and market statistics

Jan, Feb, Mar & Apr 2022

Headlines – January, February, March & April 2022

Please note that 2022 data excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel

Total	January	February	March	April	Year-to-date (Jan-Apr)
Visits	820,000	1,050,000	1,850,000	2,150,000	5,870,000
Spend	£620m	£740m	£1.3bn	£1.7bn	£4.3bn

- **Visits:** The UK received 5.9 million visits in the first 4 months of 2022. January saw the least amount of visits due to the Omicron variant and consequent travel restrictions to the UK. There was then a significant boost from February to March as travel restrictions loosened and international travel resumed.
- **Spending:** Inbound visitors spent £4.3bn from January to April 2022. Following the same pattern as visits, spend picked up as the months went by.
- Our full year forecast for 2022, published 16th February, was for 21.1 million visits (52% of 2019) and £16.9 billion spend (59% of 2019 levels). This is based on all modes of transport. We are forecasting a gradual pickup throughout 2022. By the end of 2022 we are forecasting visits to have recovered to around two thirds of pre-COVID levels, although recent flight booking numbers suggest that the outturn could be ahead of this. Please visit our website at <https://www.visitbritain.org/2022-tourism-forecast> for more information on this forecast and the latest update.

Journey Purpose - Visits

Please note that 2022 data excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel

Total	January	February	March	April	Year-to-date (Jan-Apr)
Holiday	100,000	250,000	540,000	730,000	1,620,000
Business	160,000	240,000	400,000	370,000	1,170,000
VFR	510,000	440,000	690,000	800,000	2,440,000
Miscellaneous	50,000	120,000	230,000	250,000	650,000

- All journey purposes were still a fraction of normal levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Similar to 2021, **visits to friends and relatives** made up the highest proportion of visits throughout the first four months of 2022, totalling at 2.4m visits.
- There were 1.6m **holiday visits** from Jan-Apr 2022 with only 100,000 falling in January 2021 due to the Omicron variant. Holiday visits picked up pace once restrictions loosened, reaching 730,000 in April 2022.
- **Business** visits totalled 1.2m with the highest number of visits falling in March 2022.
- All other visits, under '**miscellaneous**', which includes study, accounted for 650,000 visits in the first 4 months of 2022.

Global Region - Visits

Please note that 2022 data excludes those travelling via Eurotunnel

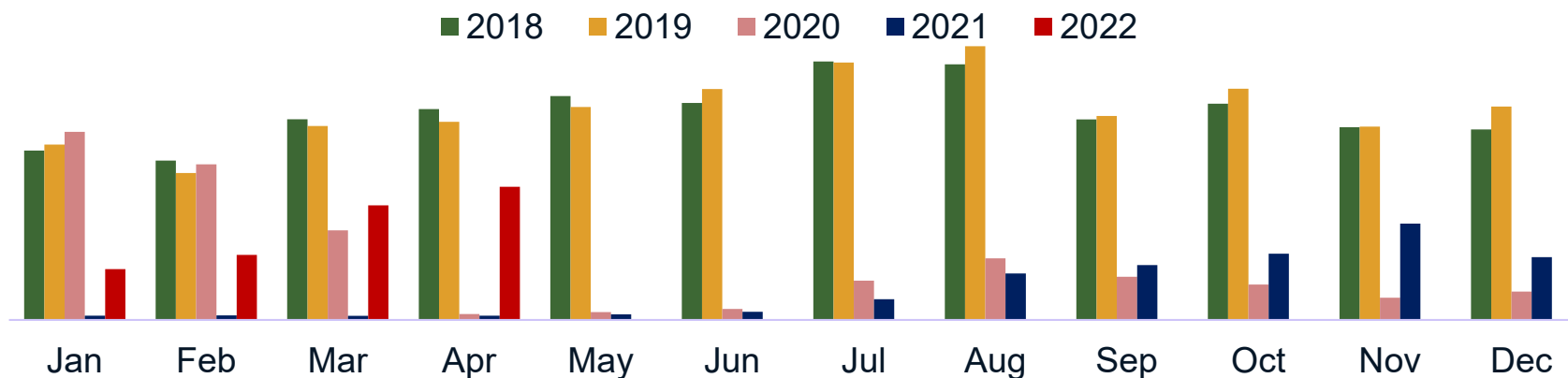
Total	January	February	March	April	Year-to-date (Jan-Apr)
Europe	610,000	860,000	1,470,000	1,690,000	4,630,000
→ EU	540,000	790,000	1,350,000	1,530,000	4,210,000
→ EU15	390,000	620,000	1,070,000	1,240,000	3,320,000
→ Other EU	160,000	180,000	280,000	290,000	910,000
→ Rest of Europe	70,000	70,000	120,000	160,000	420,000
North America	70,000	90,000	200,000	240,000	600,000
Rest of World	140,000	100,000	180,000	220,000	640,000

- **Europe** made up 79% of all inbound visits to the UK in the first 4 months of 2022, equating to 4.6m visits. 91% of these visits were from the **EU** (4.2m visits) vs 9% from the **Rest of Europe** (420,000 visits).
- There were 600,000 visits from **North America** from Jan-Apr, with visits more than doubling between February and March as travel restrictions loosened.
- The **Rest of the World** saw just 640,000 visits from Jan-Apr with some of the markets in this region still under lockdown and subject to stricter travel rules.

Detailed monthly trends - visits

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - Total Visits (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



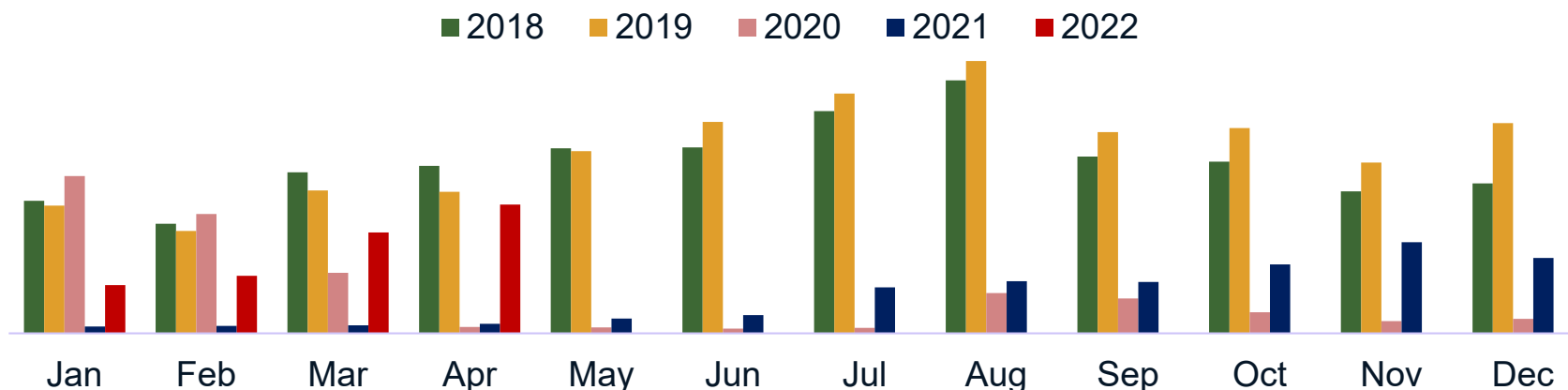
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	2,734	2,573	3,240	3,404	3,614	3,503	4,172	4,126	3,237	3,491	3,112	3,075
2019	2,830	2,372	3,129	3,199	3,438	3,727	4,155	4,418	3,292	3,731	3,121	3,445
2020	3,036	2,512	1,446	95	127	176	633	993	696	570	358	458
2021	69	73	65	68	89	132	333	750	885	1,068	1,555	1,012
2022	820	1,050	1,850	2,150								

Note: Visits in thousands. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed monthly trends - spend

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK - Total Spend (£m)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



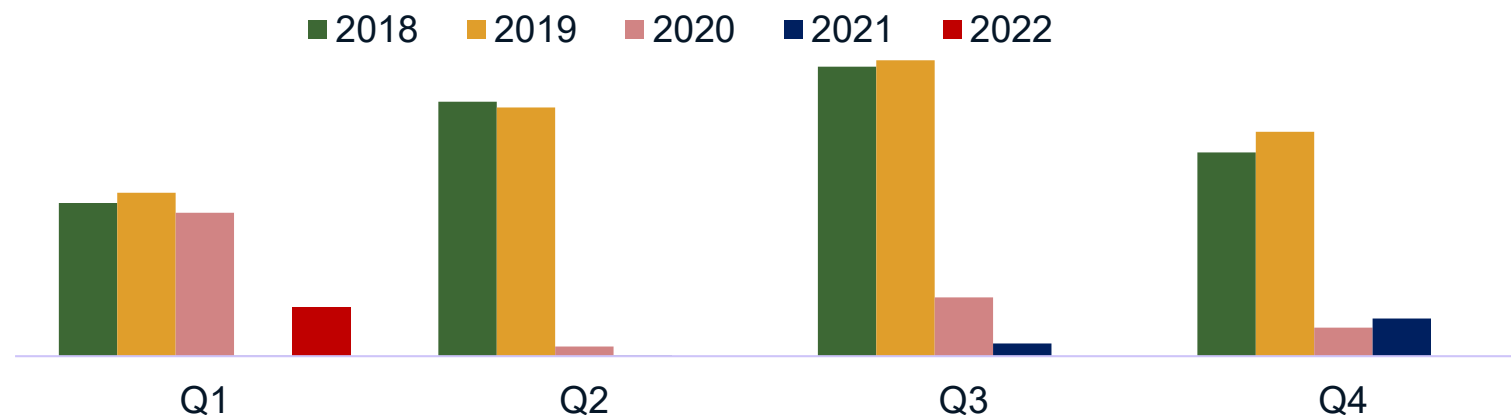
Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	1,708	1,412	2,074	2,157	2,385	2,396	2,864	3,259	2,278	2,212	1,830	1,931
2019	1,646	1,318	1,840	1,824	2,347	2,725	3,090	3,510	2,593	2,645	2,201	2,708
2020	2,026	1,538	780	82	75	61	69	519	448	270	156	185
2021	88	95	103	122	189	234	592	672	662	888	1,173	970
2022	620	740	1,300	1,660								

Note: Spending in million pounds. Monthly data is replaced by the more accurate Quarterly data. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – journey purpose - holiday

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK – Holiday Visits (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



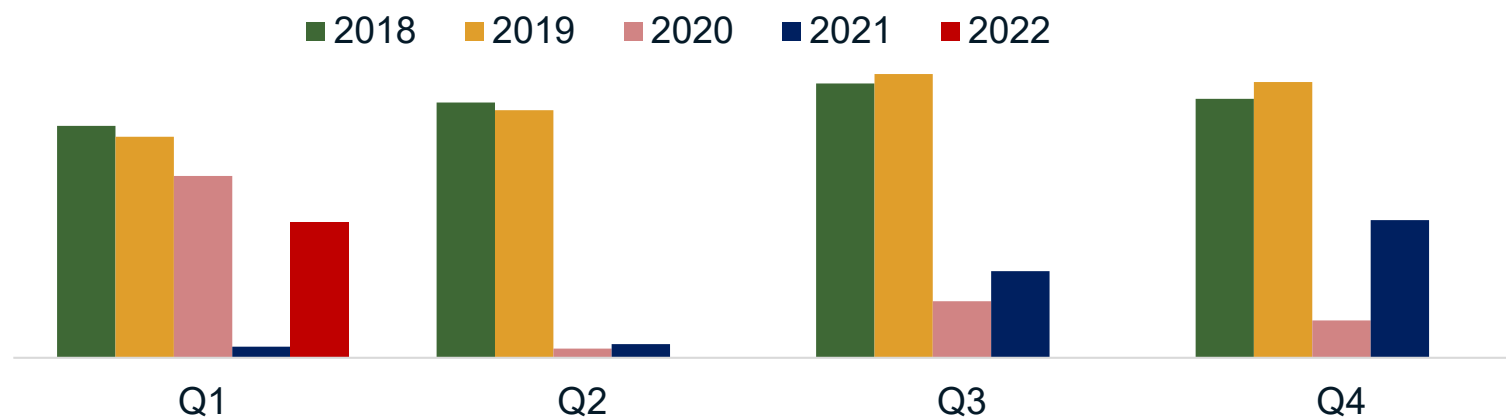
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	2,778	4,614	5,249	3,694
2019	2,964	4,508	5,365	4,068
2020	2,600	177	1,066	519
2021	8	12	233	683
2022	890			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – journey purpose - VFR

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK – Visits to Friends and Relatives (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



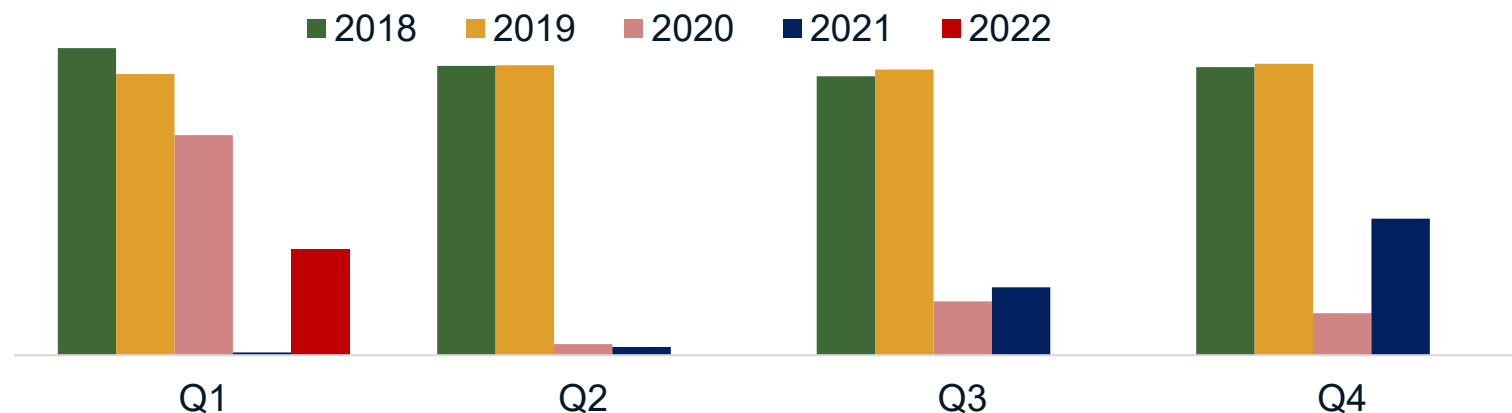
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	2,803	3,086	3,315	3,130
2019	2,672	2,993	3,430	3,332
2020	2,197	112	686	454
2021	136	166	1,048	1,664
2022	1,640			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – journey purpose - business

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK – Business Visits (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



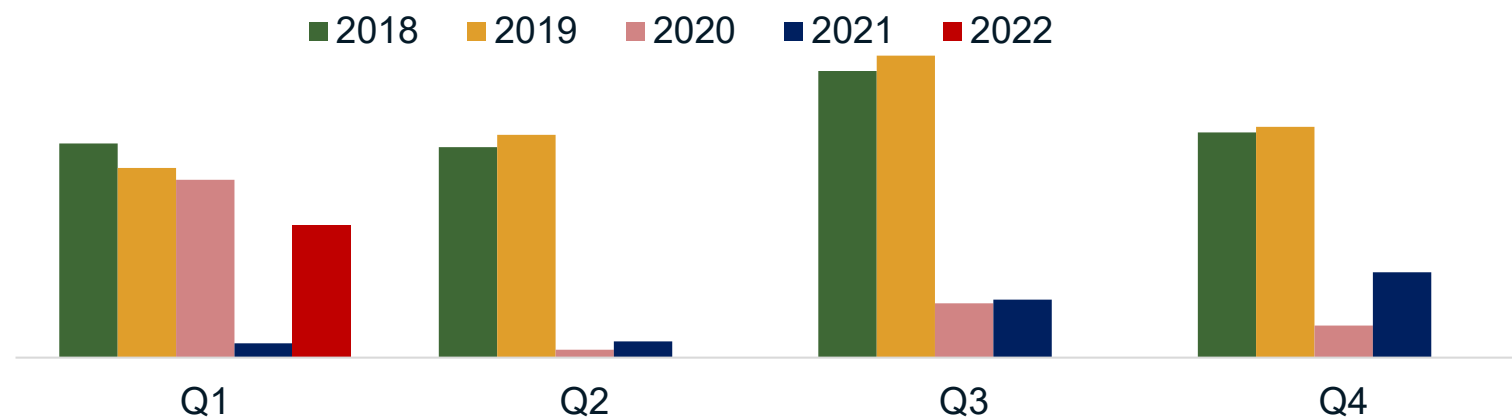
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	2,319	2,185	2,106	2,175
2019	2,123	2,190	2,157	2,201
2020	1,661	84	406	316
2021	21	62	512	1,030
2022	800			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – journey purpose - misc

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK – Miscellaneous (includes short-term study, 000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



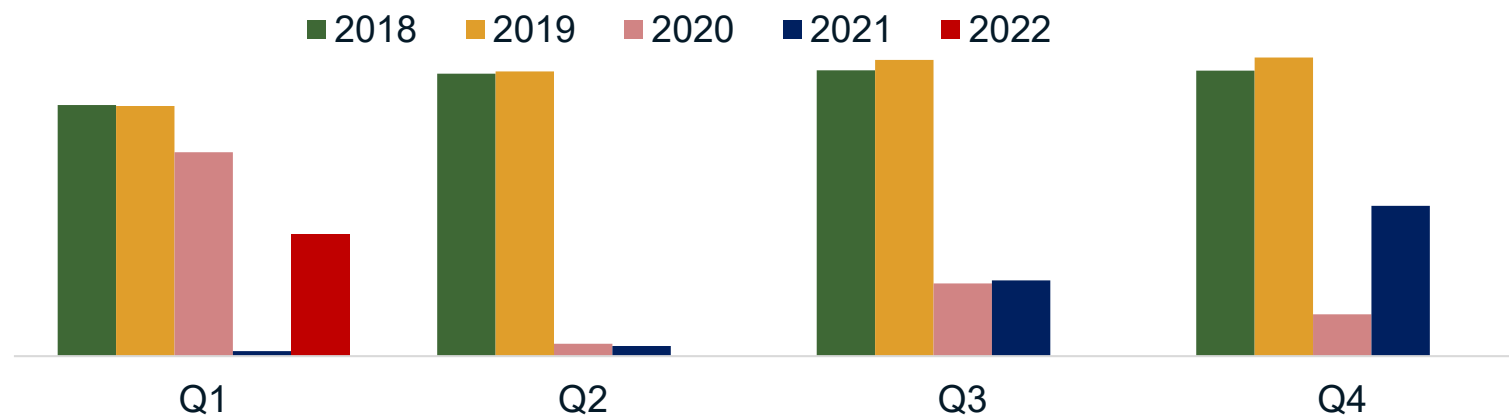
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	647	636	866	680
2019	573	673	912	697
2020	537	24	164	97
2021	43	49	175	258
2022	400			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – global regions - Europe

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK from Europe (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



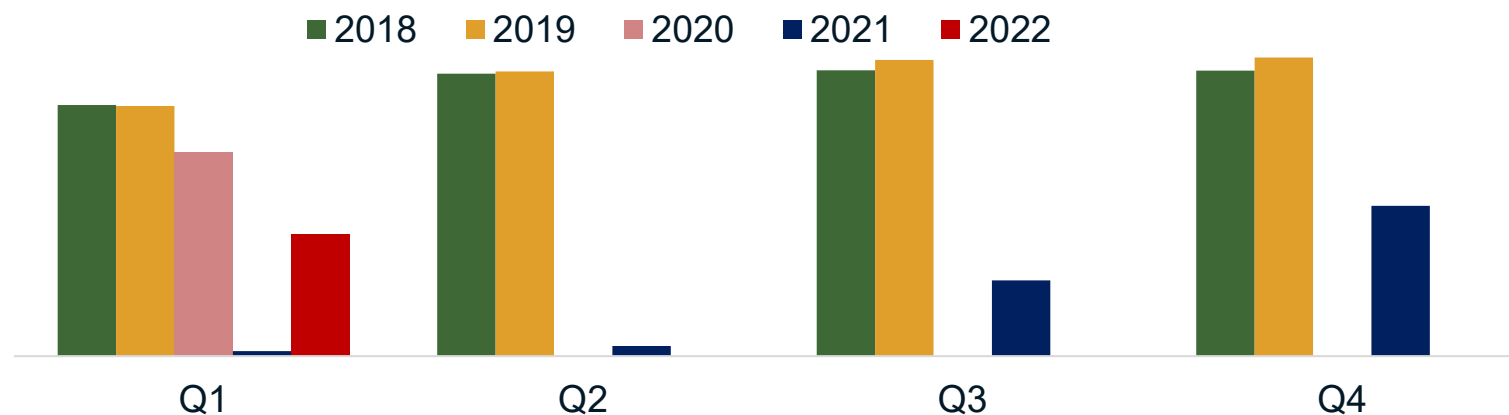
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	6,065	6,824	6,904	6,899
2019	6,044	6,879	7,156	7,215
2020	4,926	298	1,754	1,009
2021	121	244	1,827	3,632
2022	2,940			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – global regions - EU

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK from EU (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



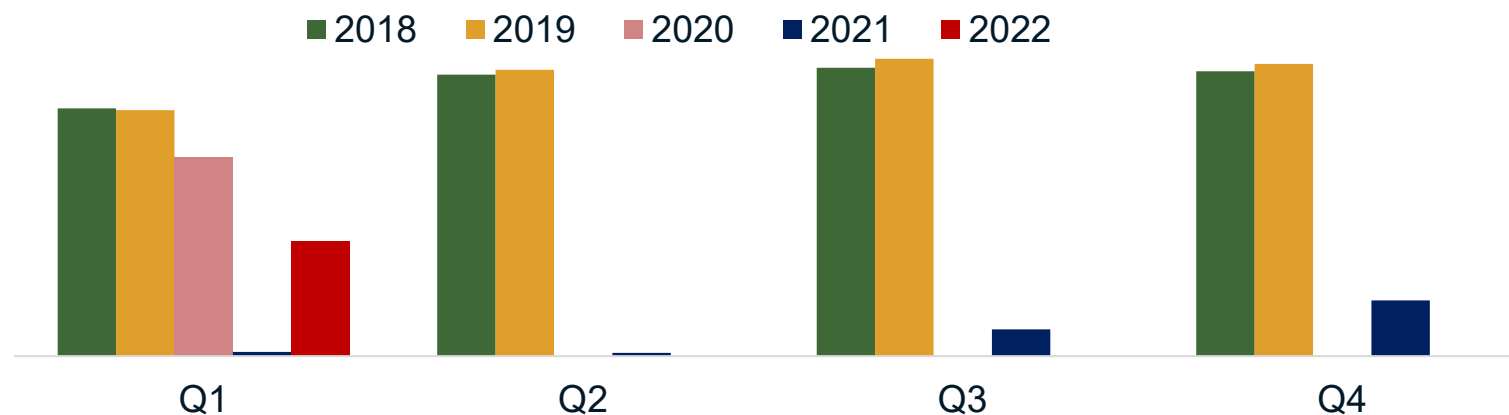
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	5,549	6,202	6,277	6,266
2019	5,543	6,272	6,512	6,502
2020	4,472			
2021	106	214	1,700	3,387
2022	2,680			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – global regions - EU15

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK from EU15 (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



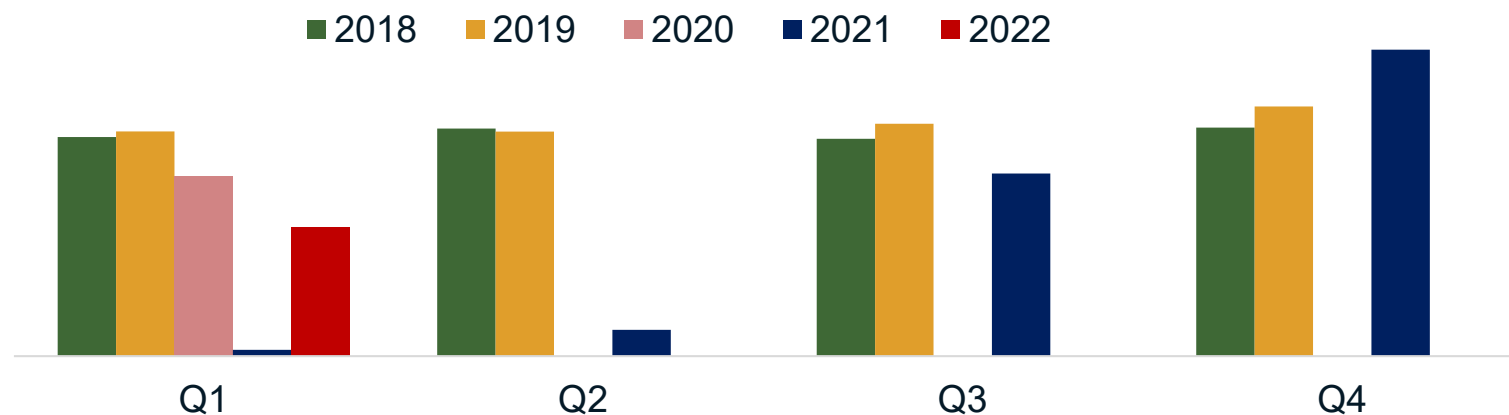
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	4,489	5,102	5,227	5,162
2019	4,456	5,187	5,389	5,295
2020	3,603			
2021	74	58	484	1,010
2022	2,080			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – global regions - EU Other

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK from EU Other (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



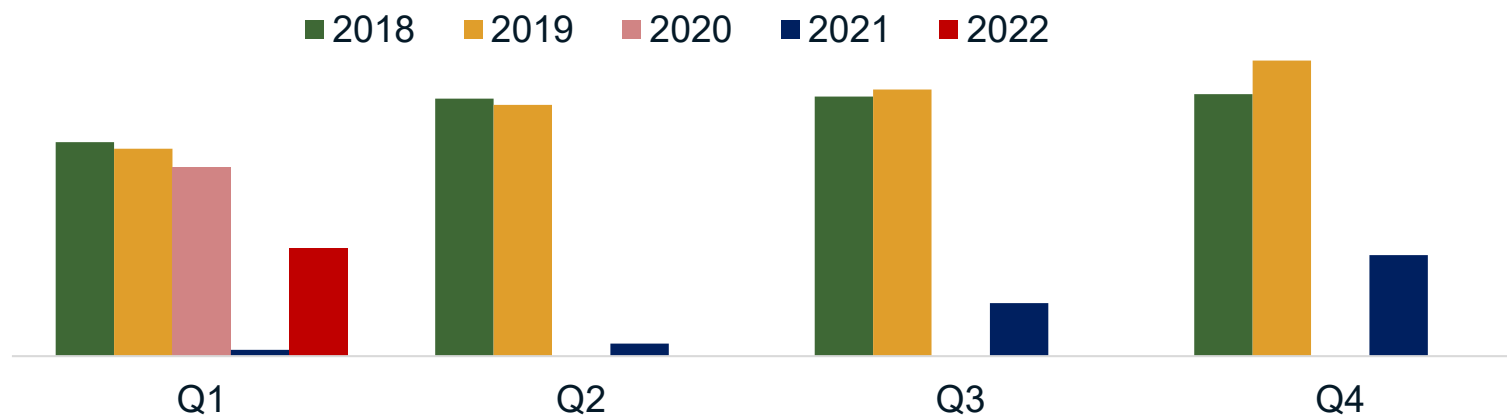
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	1,059	1,100	1,050	1,104
2019	1,086	1,085	1,123	1,206
2020	869			
2021	30	127	882	1,481
2022	620			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – global regions – Rest of Europe

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK from Rest of Europe (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



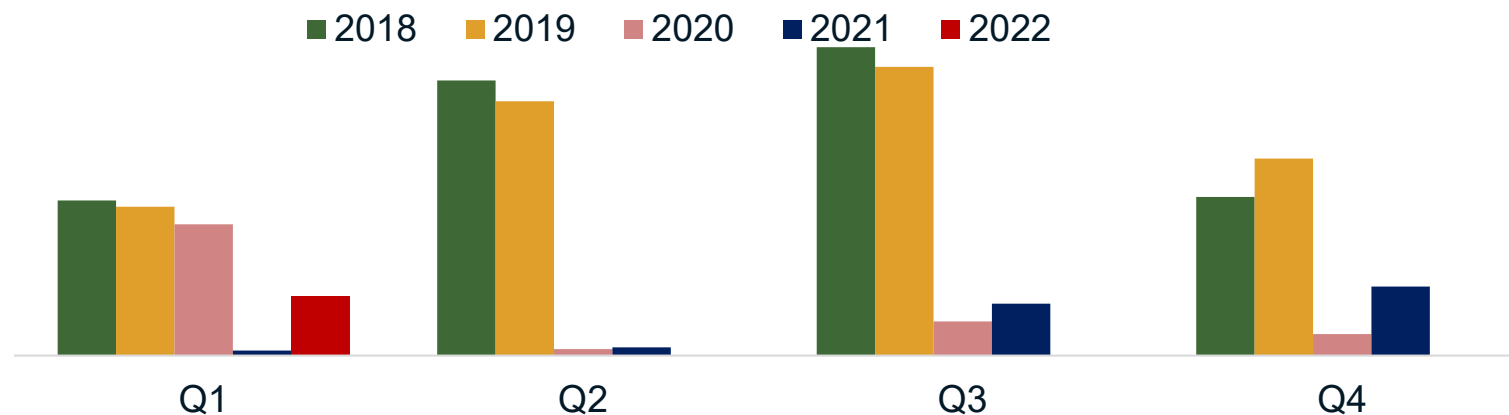
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	517	622	627	633
2019	501	607	644	714
2020	455			
2021	15	30	128	244
2022	260			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – global regions - North America

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK from North America (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



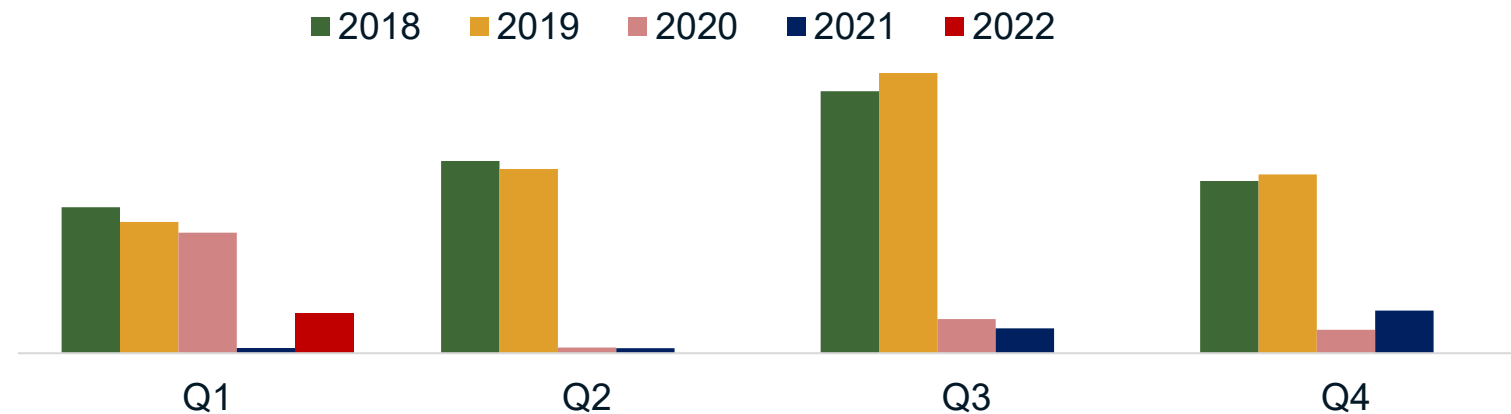
Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	938	1,663	1,864	959
2019	900	1,537	1,745	1,191
2020	794	40	207	130
2021	31	50	314	418
2022	360			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)

Detailed quarterly trend – global regions - Rest of the World

Please see notes on slide 5 when interpreting 2020, 2021 and 2022 data

Overseas Visits to the UK from Rest of the World (000)
Source: Office for National Statistics, International Passenger Survey



Years	Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Q3 (Jul-Sep)	Q4 (Oct-Dec)
2018	1,544	2,033	2,769	1,821
2019	1,388	1,948	2,963	1,891
2020	1,274	60	361	247
2021	55	53	262	451
2022	420			

Note: Visits in thousands. [Long term trends showing percentage change year-on-year by quarter and more is available here.](#)